

Smart depth of field optimization applied to a robotised view camera

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Abstract The great flexibility of a view camera allows the acquisition of high quality images that would not be possible any other way. Bringing a given object into focus is however a long and tedious task, although the underlying optical laws are known. A fundamental parameter is the aperture of the lens entrance pupil because it directly affects the depth of field. The smaller the aperture, the larger the depth of field. However a too small aperture destroys the sharpness of the image because of diffraction on the pupil edges. Hence, the desired optimal configuration of the camera is such that the object has the sharpest image with the greatest possible lens aperture. In this paper, we show that when the object is a convex polyhedron, an elegant solution to this problem can be found. The problem takes the form of a constrained optimization problem, for which theoretical and numerical results are given.

Keywords Large format photography · Computational photography · Scheimpflug principle

1 Introduction

Since the registration of Theodor Scheimpflug's patent in 1904 (see [6]), and the book of Larmore in 1965 where a proof of the so-called *Scheimpflug principle* can be found (see [3, p. 171-173]), very little has been written about the

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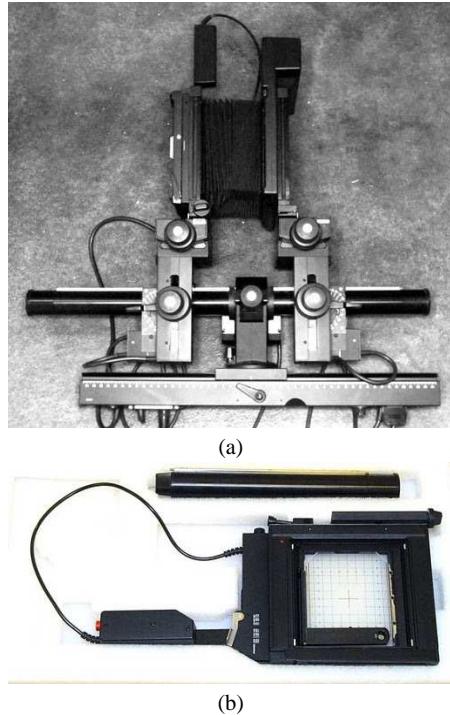


Fig. 1 The Sinar e (a) and its metering back (b).

mathematical concepts used in modern view cameras, until the development of the Sinar e in 1988 (see Figure 1). A short description of this camera is given in [7, p. 23]:

The Sinar e features an integrated electronic computer, and in the studio offers a maximum of convenience and optimum computerized image setting. The user-friendly software guides the photographer through the shot without technical confusion. The photographer selects the perspective (camera viewpoint) and the lens, and chooses the areas in the subject that are to be shown sharp with a probe. From these

scattered points the Sinar e calculates the optimum position of the plane of focus, the working aperture needed, and informs the photographer of the settings needed

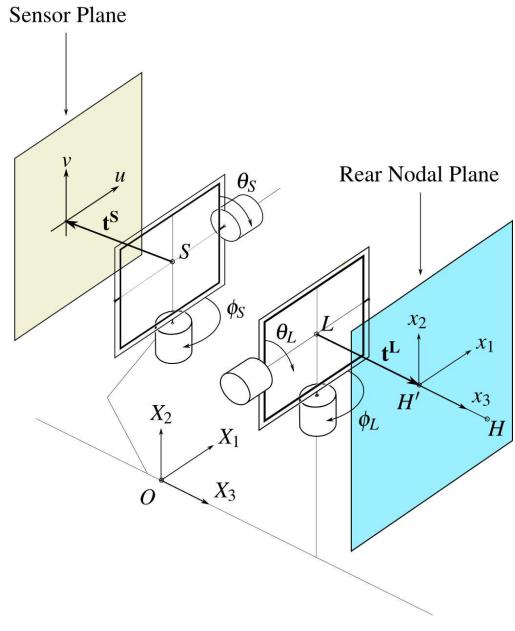
Sinar sold a few models of this camera and discontinued its development in the early nineties. Surprisingly, there has been very little published user feedback about the camera itself. However many authors started to study (in fact, rediscover) the underlying mathematics (see e.g. [4] and the references therein). The most crucial aspect is the consideration of depth of field and the mathematical aspects of this precise point are now well understood. When the geometrical configuration of the view camera is precisely known, then the depth of field region (the region of space where objects have a sharp image) can be determined by using the laws of geometric optics. Unfortunately, these laws can only be used as a rule of thumb when operating by hand on a classical view camera. Moreover, the photographer is rather interested in the inverse problem: given an object which has to be rendered sharply, what is the optimal configuration of the view camera? A fundamental parameter of this configuration is the aperture of the camera lens. Decreasing the lens aperture diameter increases the depth of field but also increases the diffraction of light by the lens entrance pupil. Since diffraction decreases the sharpness of the image, the optimal configuration should be such that the object fits the depth of field region with the greatest aperture.

This paper presents the mathematical tools used in the software of a computer controlled view camera solving this problem. Thanks to the high precision machining of its components, and to the known optical parameters of the lens and digital sensor, a reliable mathematical model of the view camera has been developed. This model allows the acquisition of 3D coordinates of the object to be photographed, as explained in Section 2. In Section 3 we study the depth of field optimization problem from a theoretical and numerical point of view. We conclude and briefly describe the architecture of the software in Section 4.

2 Basic mathematical modeling

2.1 Geometrical model of the View Camera

We consider the robotised view camera depicted in Figure 2(a) and its geometrical model in Figure 2(b). We use a global Euclidean coordinate system $(\mathbf{O}, X_1, X_2, X_3)$ attached to the camera's tripod. The front standard, symbolized by its frame with center L of global coordinates $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, L_2, L_3)^\top$, can rotate along its tilt and swing axes with angles θ_L and ϕ_L . Most camera lenses are in fact thick lenses and nodal points H' and H have to be considered (see [5] p. 43-46). The rear nodal plane, which is parallel and rigidly fixed to the front standard, passes through the rear nodal point H' .



(a)



(b)

Fig. 2 Geometrical model (a) and robotised view camera (b).

Since L and H' do not necessarily coincide, the translation between these two points is denoted \mathbf{t}^L . The vector $\overrightarrow{HH'}$ is supposed to be orthogonal to the rear nodal plane.

The rear standard is symbolized by its frame with center S , whose global coordinates are given by $\mathbf{S} = (S_1, S_2, S_3)^\top$. It can rotate along its tilt and swing axes with angles θ_S and

ϕ_S . The sensor plane is parallel and rigidly fixed to the rear standard. The eventual translation between S and the center of the sensor is denoted by \mathbf{t}^S .

The rear standard center S can move in the three X_1, X_2 and X_3 directions but the front standard center L is fixed. The rotation matrices associated with the front and rear standard alt-azimuth mounts are respectively given by $\mathbf{R}^L = \mathbf{R}(\theta_L, \phi_L)$ and $\mathbf{R}^S = \mathbf{R}(\theta_S, \phi_S)$ where

$$\mathbf{R}(\theta, \phi) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \sin \theta & -\sin \phi \cos \theta \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \sin \theta & \cos \phi \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}.$$

The intrinsic parameters of the camera (focal length f , positions of the nodal points H, H' , translations $\mathbf{t}^S, \mathbf{t}^L$, image sensor characteristics) are given by their respective manufacturers data-sheets. The extrinsic parameters of the camera are \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{L} , the global coordinate vectors of S and L , and the four rotation angles $\theta_S, \phi_S, \theta_L, \phi_L$. The precise knowledge of the extrinsic parameters is possible thanks to the computer-aided design model used for manufacturing the camera components. In addition, translations and rotations of the rear and front standards are controlled by stepper motors whose positions can be precisely known. In the following, we will see that this precise geometrical model of the view camera allows one to solve various photographic problems. The first problem is the determination of coordinates of selected points of the object to be photographed.

In the sequel, for sake of simplicity, we will give all algebraic details of the computations for a thin lens, i.e. when the two nodal points H, H' coincide. In this case, the nodal planes are coincident in a so-called *lens plane*. We will also consider that $\mathbf{t}^L = (0, 0, 0)^\top$ so that L is the optical center of the lens. Finally, we also consider that $\mathbf{t}^S = (0, 0, 0)^\top$ so that S coincides with the center of the sensor.

2.2 Acquisition of object points coordinates

Let us consider a point X with global coordinates given by $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, X_3)^\top$. The geometrical construction of the image A of X through the lens is depicted in Figure 3. We have considered a local optical coordinate system attached to the lens plane with origin L . The local coordinates of X are given by $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{R}^L)^{-1}(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{L})$ and the focal point F has local coordinates $(0, 0, f)^\top$. Elementary geometrical optics (see [5] p. 35-42) allows one to conclude that if the local coordinates of A are given by $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)^\top$, then a_3, x_3 and f are linked by the thin lens equation given in its Gaussian form by

$$-\frac{1}{a_3} + \frac{1}{x_3} = \frac{1}{f}.$$

Since A lies on the (XL) line, the other coordinates are obtained by straightforward computations and we have the con-

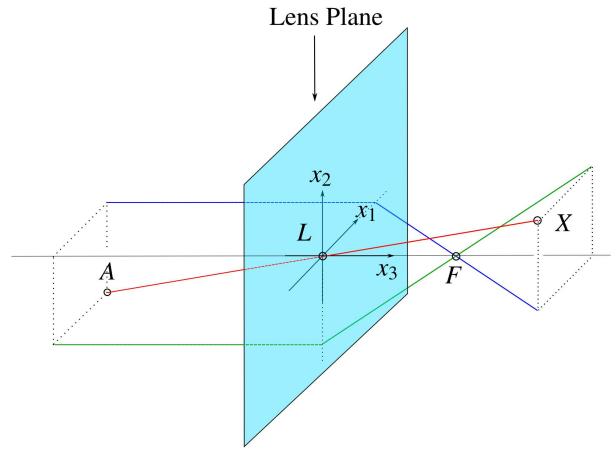


Fig. 3 Graphical construction of the image A of an object point X in the optical coordinate system. Green rays and blue rays respectively lie in the (L, x_3, x_2) and (L, x_3, x_1) planes and F is the focal point.

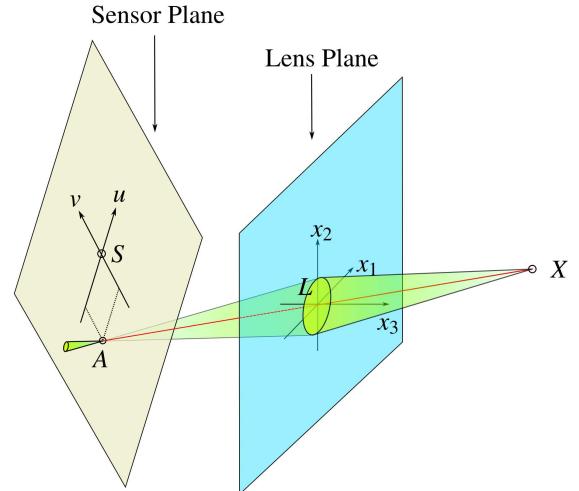


Fig. 4 Image formation when considering a lens with a pupil.

jugate formulas

$$\mathbf{a} = \frac{f}{f - x_3} \mathbf{x}, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \frac{f}{f + a_3} \mathbf{a}. \quad (2)$$

Bringing an object into focus is one of the main tasks of a photographer but it can also be used to calculate the coordinates of an object point. It is important to remember that all light rays emanating from X converge to A but pass through a pupil (or diaphragm) assumed to be circular, as depicted in Figure 4. Since all rays lie within the oblique circular cone of vertex A and whose base is the pupil, the image of X on the sensor will be in focus only if the sensor plane passes

through A , otherwise its extended image will be a blur spot. By using the full aperture of the lens, the image will rapidly go out of focus if the sensor plane is not correctly placed, e.g. by translating S into the x_3 direction. This is why auto-focus systems on classical cameras only work at near full aperture: the distance to an object is better determined when the depth of field is minimal.

The uncertainty on the position of S giving the best focus is related to the diameter of the so-called “circle of confusion”, i.e. the maximum diameter of a blur spot that is indistinguishable from a point. Hence, everything depends on the size of photosites on the sensor and on the precision of the focusing system (either manual or automatic). This uncertainty is acceptable and should be negligible compared to the uncertainty of intrinsic and extrinsic camera parameters.

The previous analysis shows that the global coordinates of X can be computed, given the position $(u, v)^\top$ of its image A on the sensor plane. This idea has been already used on the Sinar e, where the acquisition of $(u, v)^\top$ was done by using a mechanical metering unit (see Figure 1 (b)). In the system we have developed, a mouse click in the live video window of the sensor is enough to indicate these coordinates. Once $(u, v)^\top$ is known, the coordinates of A in the global coordinate system are given by

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{R}^S \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and its coordinates in the optical system by

$$\mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{R}^L)^{-1} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}).$$

Then the local coordinate vector \mathbf{x} of the reciprocal image is computed with (2) and the global coordinate vector \mathbf{X} is obtained by

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{R}^L \mathbf{x}.$$

By iteratively focusing on different parts of the object, the photographer can obtain a set of points $\mathcal{X} = \{X^1, \dots, X^n\}$, with $n \geq 3$, which can be used to determine the best configuration of the view camera, i.e. the positions of front and rear standards and their two rotations, in order to satisfy focus requirements.

3 Focus and depth of field optimization

In classical digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) cameras, the sensor plane is always parallel to the lens plane and to the plane of focus. For example, bringing into focus a long and flat object which is not parallel to the sensor needs to decrease the aperture of the lens in order to extend the depth of field. On the contrary, view cameras with tilts and swings (or DSLR with a tilt/shift lens) allow to skew away the plane of focus from the parallel in any direction. Hence, bringing

into focus the same long and flat object with a view camera can be done at full aperture. This focusing process is unfortunately very tedious. However, if a geometric model of the camera and the object are available, the adequate rotations can be estimated precisely. In the next sections, we will explain how to compute the rear standard position and the tilt and swing angles of both standards to solve two different problems:

1. when the focus zone is roughly flat, and depth of field is not a critical issue, then the object plane is computed from the set of object points \mathcal{X} . If $n = 3$ and the points are not aligned then this plane is uniquely defined. If $n > 3$ and at least 3 points are not aligned, we compute the best fitting plane minimizing the sum of squared orthogonal distances to points of \mathcal{X} . Then, we are able to bring this plane into sharp focus by acting on:
 - (a) the angles θ_L and ϕ_L of the front standard and the position of the rear standard, for arbitrary rotation angles θ_S, ϕ_S .
 - (b) the angles θ_S, ϕ_S and position of the rear standard, for arbitrary rotation angles θ_L, ϕ_L (in this case there is a perspective distortion).
2. when the focus zone is not flat, then the tridimensional shape of the object has to be taken into account.

The computations in case 1a are detailed in Section 3.1. In Section 3.3 a general algorithm is described that allows the computation of angles θ_L and ϕ_L of the front standard and the position of the rear standard such that all the object points are in the depth of field region with a maximum aperture. We give a theoretical result showing that the determination of the solution amounts to enumerate a finite number of configurations.

3.1 Placement of the plane of sharp focus by using tilt and swing angles

In this section we study the problem of computing the tilt and swing angles of front standard and the position of the rear standard for a given sharp focus plane. Although the underlying laws are well-known and are widely described (see [4, 8, 2]), the detail of the computations is always done for the particular case where only the tilt angle θ is considered. Since we aim to consider the more general case where tilt and swing angles are used, we will describe the various objects (lines, planes) and the associated computations by using linear algebra tools.

3.1.1 The Scheimpflug and the Hinge rules

In order to explain the Scheimpflug rule, we will refer to the diagram depicted in Figure 5. The Plane of sharp focus (abbreviated SFP) is determined by a normal vector \mathbf{n}^{SF} and

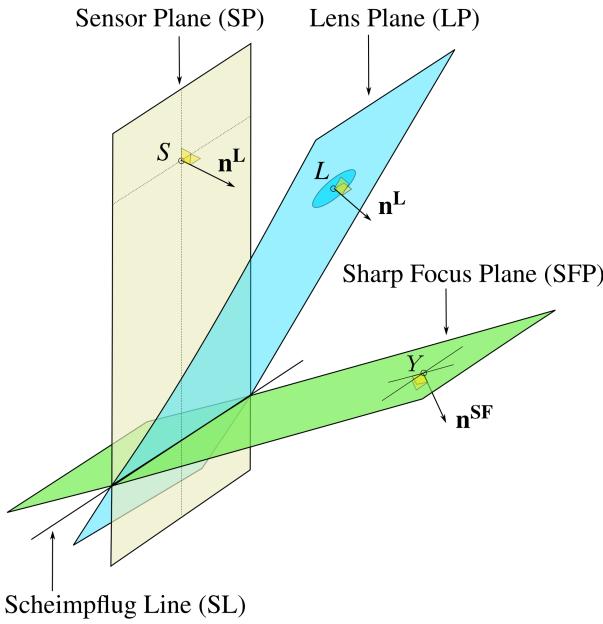


Fig. 5 Illustration of the Scheimpflug rule.

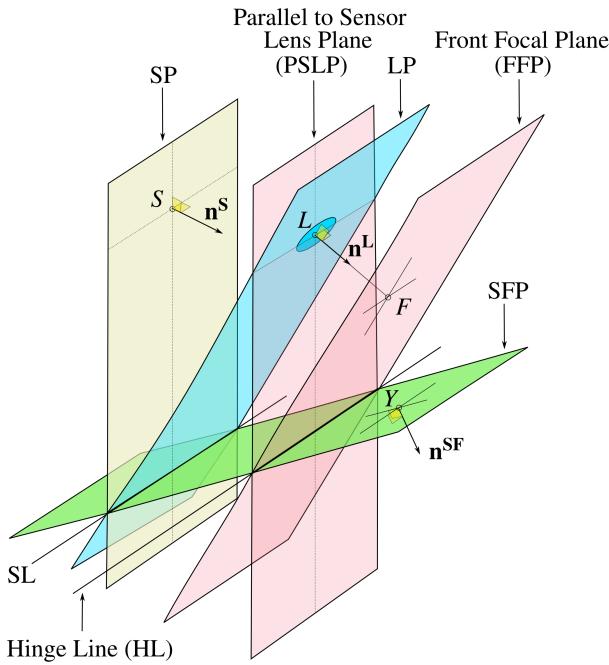


Fig. 6 Illustration of the Hinge rule.

a point Y . The position of the optical center L and a vector \mathbf{n}^S normal to the sensor plane (abbreviated SP) are known. The unknowns are the position of the sensor center S and a vector \mathbf{n}^L normal to the lens plane (abbreviated LP).

The Scheimpflug rule stipulates that if SFP is into focus, then SP, LP and SFP necessarily intersect on a common line called the "Scheimpflug Line" (abbreviated SL). The dia-

gram of Figure 5a should help the reader to see that this rule is not sufficient to uniquely determine \mathbf{n}^L and SP , as this plane can be translated toward \mathbf{n}^S if \mathbf{n}^L is changed accordingly.

The missing constraints are provided by the Hinge rule, which is illustrated in Figure 6. This rule considers two complimentary planes: the front focal plane (abbreviated FFP), which is parallel to LP and passes through the focal point F , and the parallel to sensor lens plane (abbreviated PSLP), which is parallel to SP and passes through the optical center L . The Hinge Rule stipulates that FFP, PSLP and SFP must intersect along a common line called the Hinge Line (abbreviated HL). Since HL is uniquely determined as the intersection of SFP and PSLP, this allows one to determine \mathbf{n}^L , or equivalently the tilt and swing angles, such that FFP passes through HL and F . Then SL is uniquely defined as the intersection of LP and SFP by the Scheimpflug rule (note that SL and HL are parallel by construction). Since \mathbf{n}^S is already known, any point belonging to SL is sufficient to uniquely define SP. Hence, the determination of tilt and swing angles and position of the rear standard can be summarized as follows:

1. determination of HL, intersection of FFP and SFP,
2. determination of tilt and swing angles such that HL belongs to FFP,
3. determination of SL, intersection of LP and SFP,
4. translation of S such that SL belongs to SP.

3.1.2 Algebraic details of the computations

In this section the origin of the coordinate system is the optical center L and the inner product of two vectors \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} is expressed by using the matrix notation $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{Y}$. All planes are defined by a unit normal vector and a point in the plane as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} SP &= \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{S})^\top \mathbf{n}^S = 0 \right\} \\ PSLP &= \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{n}^S = 0 \right\}, \\ LP &= \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{n}^L = 0 \right\}, \\ FFP &= \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{n}^L - f = 0 \right\}, \\ SFP &= \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y})^\top \mathbf{n}^S = 0 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where the equation of FFP takes this particular form because the distance between L and F is equal to the focal length f and we have imposed that $n_3^L > 0$. The computations are detailed in the following algorithm:

Algorithm 1

Step 1 : compute the Hinge Line by considering its parametric equation

$$HL = \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \exists t \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W} + t\mathbf{V} \right\},$$

where \mathbf{V} is a direction vector and \mathbf{W} is the coordinate vector of an arbitrary point of HL. Since this line is the intersection of PSLP and SFP, \mathbf{V} is orthogonal to \mathbf{n}^L and \mathbf{n}^S . Hence, we can take \mathbf{V} as the cross product

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{n}^S \times \mathbf{n}^S$$

and \mathbf{W} as a particular solution (e.g. the solution of minimum norm) of the overdetermined system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{n}^S &= 0, \\ \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{n}^S &= \mathbf{Y}^\top \mathbf{n}^S. \end{aligned}$$

Step 2 : since HL belongs to FFP we have

$$(\mathbf{W} + t\mathbf{V})^\top \mathbf{n}^L - f = 0, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R},$$

hence \mathbf{n}^L verifies the overdetermined system of equations

$$\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{n}^L = f, \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{n}^L = 0. \quad (4)$$

with the constraint $\|\mathbf{n}^L\|^2 = 1$. The computation of \mathbf{n}^L can be done by the following two steps:

1. compute $\widetilde{\mathbf{W}} = \mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{W}$ and $\widetilde{\mathbf{V}}$ the minimum norm solution of system (3)-(4), which gives a parametrization

$$\mathbf{n}^L = \widetilde{\mathbf{V}} + t\widetilde{\mathbf{W}},$$

of all its solutions, where t is an arbitrary real.

2. determination of t such that $\|\mathbf{n}^L\|^2 = 1$: this is done by taking the solution t of the second degree equation

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{W}}^\top \widetilde{\mathbf{W}} t^2 + 2\widetilde{\mathbf{W}}^\top \widetilde{\mathbf{V}} t + \widetilde{\mathbf{V}}^\top \widetilde{\mathbf{V}} - 1 = 0,$$

such that $n_3^L > 0$. The tilt and swing angles are then obtained as

$$\phi_L = -\arcsin n_2^L, \quad \theta_L = -\arcsin \frac{n_1^L}{\cos \theta_L}.$$

Step 3 : since SL is the intersection of LP and SFP, the coordinate vector \mathbf{U} of a particular point U on SL is obtained as the minimum norm solution of the system

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{n}^L &= 0, \\ \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{n}^S &= \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{n}^S, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that $\mathbf{W} \in \text{SFP}$.

Step 4 : the translation of S can be computed such that U belongs to SP, i.e.

$$(\mathbf{U} - \mathbf{S})^\top \mathbf{n}^S = 0.$$

If we only act on the third coordinate of S and leave the two others unchanged, then S_3 can be computed as

$$S_3 = \frac{\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{n}^S - S_1 n_1^S - S_2 n_2^S}{n_3^S}.$$

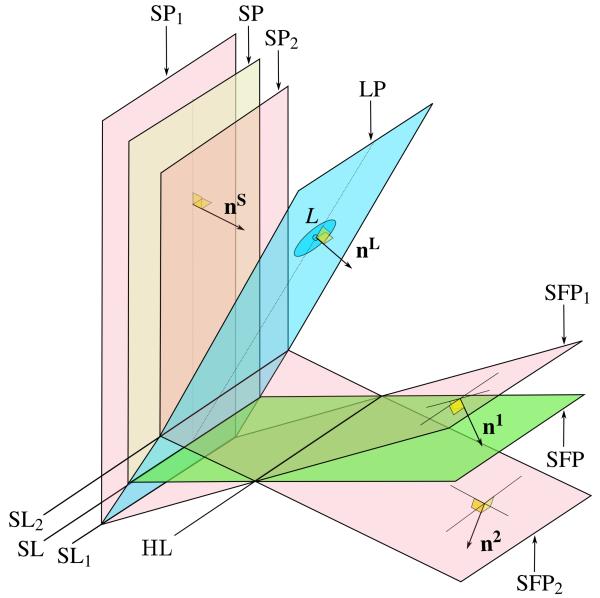


Fig. 7 Position of planes SFP_1 and SFP_2 delimiting the depth of field region.

Remark 1 When we consider a true camera lens, the nodal points H, H' and the front standard center L do not coincide. Hence, the tilt and swing rotations of the front standard modify the actual position of the PSLP plane. In this case, we use the following iterative fixed point scheme:

1. The angles ϕ_L and θ_L are initialized with starting values ϕ_L^0 and θ_L^0 .
2. At iteration k ,
 - (a) the position of PSLP is computed considering ϕ_L^k and θ_L^k ,
 - (b) the resulting Hinge Line is computed, then the position of FFP and the new values ϕ_L^{k+1} and θ_L^{k+1} are computed.

Point 2 is repeated until convergence of ϕ_L^k and θ_L^k up to a given tolerance. Generally 3 iterations are sufficient to reach the machine precision.

3.2 Characterization of the depth of field region

As in the previous section, we consider that L and the nodal points H and H' coincide. Moreover, L will be the origin of the global coordinates system.

We consider the configuration depicted in Figure 7 where the sharp focus plane SFP, the lens plane LP and the sensor plane SP are tied by the Scheimpflug and the Hinge rule. The depth of field can be defined as follows:

Definition 1 Let X be a 3D point and A its image through the lens. Let \mathcal{C} be the disk in LP of center L and diameter

f/N , where N is called the *f-number*. Let K be the cone of base \mathcal{C} and vertex A . The point X is said to lie in the depth of field region if the diameter of the intersection of SP and K is lower than c , the diameter of the so-called *circle of confusion*.

The common values of c , which depend on the magnification from the sensor image to the final image and on its viewing conditions, lie typically between 0.2 mm and 0.01 mm. In the following the value of c is not a degree of freedom but a given input.

If the ellipticity of extended images is neglected, the depth of field region can be shown to be equal to the unbounded wedge delimited by SFP_1 and SFP_2 intersecting at HL , where the corresponding sensor planes SP_1 and SP_2 are tied to SFP_1 and SFP_2 by the Scheimpflug rule. By mentally rotating SFP around HL , it is easy to see that SP is translated through \mathbf{n}^S and spans the region between SP_1 and SP_2 . The position of SP_1 and SP_2 , the f-number N and the diameter of the circle of confusion c are related by the formula

$$\frac{Nc}{f} = \frac{p_1 - p_2}{p_1 + p_2}, \quad (5)$$

where p_1 , respectively p_2 , are the distances between the optical center L and SP_1 , respectively SP_2 , both measured orthogonally to the optical plane. The distance p between SP and L can be shown to be equal to

$$p = \frac{2p_1 p_2}{p_1 + p_2}, \quad (6)$$

the harmonic mean of p_1 and p_2 . This approximate definition of the depth of field region has been proposed by various authors (see [8, 1]) but when the ellipticity of images is taken into account a complete study can be found in [2]. For sake of completeness, we give the justification of formulas (5) and (6) in Appendix A.1. In most practical situations the necessary angle between SP and LP is small (less than 10 degrees), so that this approximation is correct.

Remark 2 The analysis in Appendix A.1 shows that the ratio $\frac{Nc}{f}$ in equation (5) does not depend on the direction used for measuring the distance between SP , SP_1 , SP_2 and L . The only condition, in order to take into account the case where SP and LP are parallel, is that this direction is not orthogonal to \mathbf{n}^S . Hence, by taking the direction given by \mathbf{n}^S , we can obtain an equivalent formula to (5). To compute the distances, we need the coordinate vector of two points U_1 and U_2 on SP_1 and SP_2 respectively. To this purpose we consider Step 3 of Algorithm 1 in section 3.1: if \mathbf{W} is the coordinate vector of any point W of HL , each vector \mathbf{U}^i can be obtained as a particular solution of the system

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}^i \top \mathbf{n}^L &= 0, \\ \mathbf{U}^i \top \mathbf{n}^i &= \mathbf{W} \top \mathbf{n}^i. \end{aligned}$$

Since SP_1 can be defined as

$$SP_1 = \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{U}^i) \top \mathbf{n}^S = 0 \right\},$$

and $\|\mathbf{n}^S\| = 1$, the signed distance from L to SP_1 is equal to

$$d(L, SP_1) = \mathbf{U}_i \top \mathbf{n}^S.$$

So the equivalent formula giving the ratio $\frac{Nc}{f}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{Nc}{f} &= \left| \frac{d(L, SP_1) - d(L, SP_2)}{d(L, SP_1) + d(L, SP_2)} \right|, \\ &= \left| \frac{(\mathbf{U}_1 - \mathbf{U}_2) \top \mathbf{n}^S}{(\mathbf{U}_1 + \mathbf{U}_2) \top \mathbf{n}^S} \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

The above considerations show that for a given orientation of the rear standard given by \mathbf{n}^S , if the depth of field wedge is given, then the needed f-number, the tilt and swing angles of the front standard and the translation of the sensor plane, can be determined. The related question that will be addressed in the following is the question: given a set of points $\mathcal{X} = \{X^1, \dots, X^n\}$, how can we minimize the f-number such that all points of \mathcal{X} lie in the depth of field region?

3.3 Depth of field optimization with respect to tilt angle

We first study the depth of field optimization in two dimensions, because in this particular case all computations can be carried explicitly and a closed form expression is obtained, giving the f-number as a function of front standard tilt angle and of the slope of limiting planes. First, notice that N has a natural upper bound, since (5) implies that

$$N \leq \frac{f}{c}.$$

3.3.1 Computation of f-number with respect to tilt angle and limiting planes

Without loss of generality, we consider that the sensor plane has the normal $\mathbf{n}^S = (0, 0, 1)^\top$. Let us denote by θ the tilt angle of the front standard and consider that the swing angle ϕ is zero. The lens plane is given by

$$LP = \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \mathbf{X} \top \mathbf{n}^L = 0 \right\},$$

where

$$\mathbf{n}^L = (0, -\sin \theta, \cos \theta)^\top,$$

and any collinear vector to $\mathbf{n}^L \times \mathbf{n}^S$ is a direction vector of the Hinge Line. Hence we can take, independently of θ ,

$$\mathbf{V} = (1, 0, 0)^\top$$

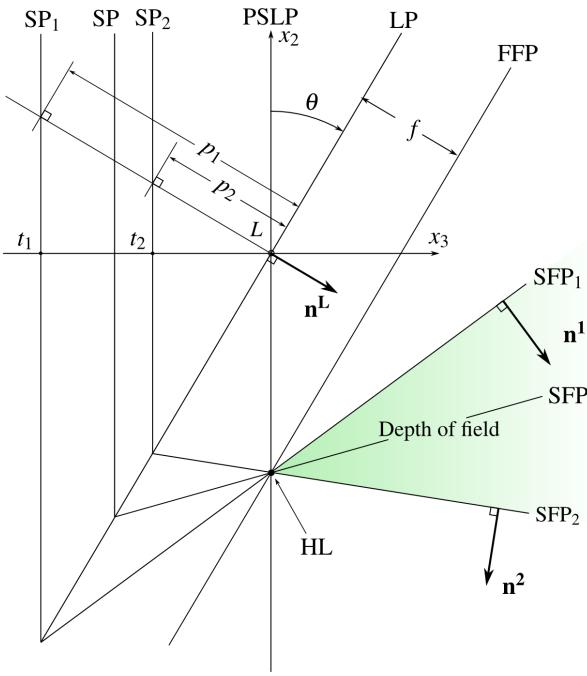


Fig. 8 The depth of field region when only a tilt angle θ is used.

and a parametric equation of HL is thus given by

$$HL = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \exists t \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W}(\theta) + t\mathbf{V}\},$$

where $\mathbf{W}(\theta)$ is the coordinate vector of a particular point $W(\theta)$ on HL, obtained as the minimum norm solution of

$$\mathbf{W}(\theta)^\top \mathbf{n}^S = 0,$$

$$\mathbf{W}(\theta)^\top \mathbf{n}^L = f.$$

Straightforward computations show that for $\theta \neq 0$

$$\mathbf{W}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{f}{\sin \theta} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Consider, as depicted in Figure 8, the two sharp focus planes SFP_1 and SFP_2 passing through HL, with normals $\mathbf{n}^1 = (0, -1, a_1)^\top$ and $\mathbf{n}^2 = (0, -1, a_2)^\top$,

$$SFP_1 = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^\top \mathbf{n}^1 = 0\},$$

$$SFP_2 = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^\top \mathbf{n}^2 = 0\}.$$

The two corresponding sensor planes SP_i are given by following Steps 3-4 in Algorithm 1 by

$$SFP_i = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, X_3 = t_i\}, i = 1, 2,$$

where

$$t_i = \frac{f}{a_i \sin \theta - \cos \theta}, i = 1, 2.$$

Using equation (7) the corresponding f-number is equal to

$$N(\theta, \mathbf{a}) = \left| \frac{t_1 - t_2}{t_1 + t_2} \right| \left(\frac{f}{c} \right), \quad (8)$$

where we have used the notation $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2)$. Finally we have, for $\theta \neq 0$

$$N(\theta, \mathbf{a}) = \text{sign } \theta \frac{(a_1 - a_2) \sin \theta}{2 \cos \theta - (a_1 + a_2) \sin \theta} \left(\frac{f}{c} \right). \quad (9)$$

Remark 3 When $\theta = 0$, then SFP does not intersect PSLP and the depth of field region is included between two parallel planes SFP_i given by

$$SFP_i = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, X_3 = z_i\}, i = 1, 2,$$

where z_1 and z_2 depend on the f-number and on the position of SFP. One can show by using the thin lens equation and equation (5) that the corresponding f-number is equal to

$$N_0(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\left| \frac{1}{z_2} - \frac{1}{z_1} \right|}{\frac{1}{z_1} + \frac{1}{z_2} - \frac{2}{f}} \left(\frac{f}{c} \right). \quad (10)$$

3.3.2 Theoretical results for the optimization problem

Without loss of generality, we will consider a set of only three non-aligned points $\mathcal{X} = \{X^1, X^2, X^3\}$, which have to be within the depth of field region with minimal f-number and we denote by $\mathbf{X}^1, \mathbf{X}^2, \mathbf{X}^3$ their respective coordinate vectors.

The corresponding optimization problem can be stated as follows: find

$$(\theta^*, \mathbf{a}^*) = \arg \min_{\substack{\theta \in \mathbb{R} \\ \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}(\theta)}} N(\theta, \mathbf{a}), \quad (11)$$

where for a given θ the set $\mathcal{A}(\theta)$ is defined by the inequalities

$$(\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^\top \mathbf{n}^1 \geq 0, i = 1, 2, 3, \quad (12)$$

$$(\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^\top \mathbf{n}^2 \leq 0, i = 1, 2, 3, \quad (13)$$

meaning that X^1, X^2, X^3 are respectively under SFP_1 and above SFP_2 , and by the inequalities

$$-(\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^\top \mathbf{n}^L + f \leq 0, i = 1, 2, 3, \quad (14)$$

meaning that X^1, X^2, X^3 are in front of FFP.

Remark 4 Points behind the focal plane cannot be in focus, and the constraints (14) are just expressing this practical impossibility. However, we have to notice that when one of these constraints is active, we can show that $a_1 = \cot \theta$ or $a_2 = \cot \theta$ so that $N(\mathbf{a}, \theta)$ reaches its upper bound $\frac{f}{c}$. Moreover, we have to eliminate the degenerate case where the points X^i are such that there exists two active constraints in (14): in this case, there exists a unique admissible pair (\mathbf{a}, θ) and the problem has no practical interest. To this purpose, we can suppose that $X_3^i > f$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$.

For $\theta \neq 0$ the gradient of $N(\mathbf{a}, \theta)$ is equal to

$$\nabla(\mathbf{a}, \theta) = \frac{2 \operatorname{sign} \theta}{(2 \cot \theta - (a_1 + a_2))^2} \begin{pmatrix} \cot \theta - a_2 \\ -\cot \theta + a_1 \\ \frac{a_1 - a_2}{\sin^2 \theta} \end{pmatrix}$$

and cannot vanish since $a_1 = a_2$ is not possible because it would mean that X^1, X^2, X^3 are aligned. This implies that \mathbf{a} lies on the boundary of $\mathcal{A}(\theta)$ and we have the following intuitive result (the proof is given in Appendix A.2):

Proposition 1 Suppose that $X_3^i > f$, for $i = 1, 2, 3$. Then when $N(\mathbf{a}, \theta)$ reaches its minimum, there exists i_1, i_2 with $i_1 \neq i_2$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{X}^{i_1} - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^{\top} \mathbf{n}^1 &= 0, \\ (\mathbf{X}^{i_2} - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^{\top} \mathbf{n}^2 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 5 The above result shows that at least two points touch the depth of field limiting planes SFP_1 and SFP_2 when the f-number is minimal. In the following, we will show that the three points X^1, X^2 and X^3 are necessarily in contact with one of the limiting planes (the proof is given in Appendix A.3):

Proposition 2 Suppose that the vertices $\{X^i\}_{i=1\dots 3}$ verify the condition

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}^i \times \mathbf{X}^j\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{X}^j\|} > f, \quad i \neq j. \quad (15)$$

Then $N(\mathbf{a}, \theta)$ reaches its minimum when all vertices are in contact with the limiting planes.

Remark 6 If θ is small, then $N(\theta, \mathbf{a})$ in (9) can be approximated by

$$\tilde{N}(\theta, \mathbf{a}) = \operatorname{sign} \theta (a_1 - a_2) \sin \theta \left(\frac{f}{2c} \right), \quad (16)$$

and the proof of Proposition 2 is considerably simplified: the same result holds with the weaker condition

$$\|\mathbf{X}^i \times \mathbf{X}^j\| > 0. \quad (17)$$

In fact, an approximate way of specifying the depth of field region using the *hyperfocal distance*, proposed in [4], leads to the same approximation of $N(\theta, \mathbf{a})$, under the *a priori* hypothesis of small θ and distant objects, i.e. $X_3^i \gg f$. This remark is clarified in Appendix A.4.

We will illustrate the theoretical result by considering sets of 3 points. For a set with more than 3 vertices (but being equal to the vertices of the convex hull of \mathcal{X}), the determination of the optimal solution is purely combinatorial, since it is enough to enumerate all admissible situations where two points are in contact with one plane, and a third one with the other. The value $\theta = 0$ also has to be considered because it can be a critical value if the object has a vertical edge. We will also give an Example which violates condition (15) and where $N(\mathbf{a}, \theta)$ reaches its minimum when only two vertices are in contact with the limiting planes.

3.3.3 Numerical results

In this section, we will consider the following function, defined for $\theta \neq 0$

$$n(\theta) = \min_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}(\theta)} N(\mathbf{a}, \theta).$$

Finding the minimum of this function allows one to solve the original constrained optimization problem, but considering the results of the previous section, $n(\theta)$ is non-differentiable. In fact, the values of θ for which $n(\theta)$ is not differentiable correspond to the situations where 3 points are in contact with the limiting planes. We extend $n(\theta)$ by continuity for $\theta = 0$ by defining

$$n(0) = \frac{\frac{1}{z_2} - \frac{1}{z_1}}{\frac{1}{z_1} + \frac{1}{z_2} - \frac{2}{f}} \left(\frac{f}{c} \right),$$

where

$$z_1 = \max_{i=1,2,3} X_3^i, \quad z_2 = \min_{i=1,2,3} X_3^i.$$

This formula can be directly obtained by using conjugation formulas or by taking $\theta = 0$ in equation (24).

Example 1 We consider a lens with focal length $f = 5.10^{-2} \text{m}$ and a confusion circle $c = 3.10^{-5} \text{m}$ (commonly used value for 24x36 cameras). The vertices have coordinates

$$\mathbf{X}^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1.5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Figure 9 shows the desired depth of field region (dashed zone) and the three candidates hinge lines corresponding to contacts $E_{ij}V_k$:

- $E_{12}V_3$, obtained when the edge $[X^1, X^2]$ is in contact with SFP_1 and vertex X^3 with SFP_2 .
- $E_{13}V_2$, obtained when the edge $[X^1, X^3]$ is in contact with SFP_2 and vertex X^2 with SFP_1 .
- $E_{23}V_1$, obtained when the edge $[X^2, X^3]$ is in contact with SFP_1 and vertex X^1 with SFP_2 .

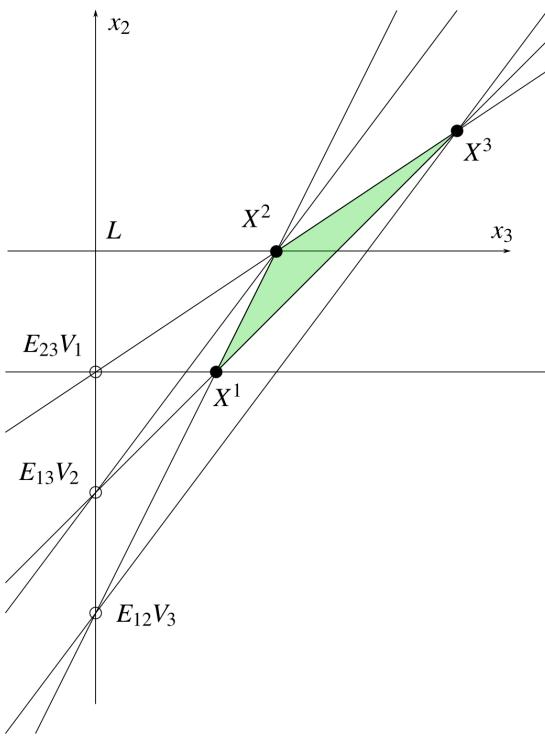


Fig. 9 Enumeration of the 3 candidates configurations for Example 1.

Contact	θ	$n(\theta)$
$E_{12}V_3$	0.0166674	9.52
$E_{13}V_2$	0.025002	7.16
$E_{23}V_1$	0.0500209	28.28

Table 1 Value of θ for each possible optimal contact and corresponding f-number $n(\theta)$ for Example 1.

The associated values of θ and $n(\theta)$ are given in Table 1, which shows that contact $E_{13}V_2$ seems to give the minimum f-number. Condition (15) is verified, since

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}^1 \times \mathbf{X}^2\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^1 - \mathbf{X}^2\|} = 1, \quad \frac{\|\mathbf{X}^1 \times \mathbf{X}^3\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^1 - \mathbf{X}^3\|} = 1.34,$$

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}^2 \times \mathbf{X}^3\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^2 - \mathbf{X}^3\|} = 1.48.$$

Hence, the derivative of $n(\theta)$ cannot vanish and the minimum f-number is necessarily reached for $\theta^* = 0.025002$.

We can confirm this by considering the graph of $n(\theta)$ depicted on Figure 10. In the zone of interest, the function $n(\theta)$ is almost piecewise affine. For each point in the interior of curved segments of the graph, the value of θ is such that the contact of \mathcal{X} with the limiting planes is of type V_iV_j . Clearly, the derivative of $n(\theta)$ does not vanish. The possible optimal values of θ , corresponding to contacts of type E_iV_j , are the abscissa of angular points of the graph, marked with

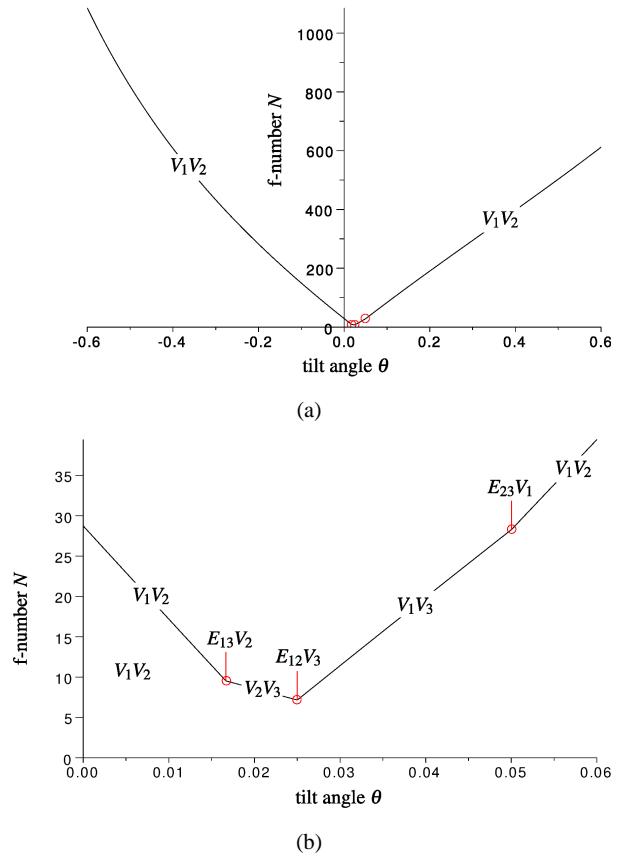


Fig. 10 Example 1 graph of $n(\theta)$ for $\theta \in [-0.6, 0.6]$ (a) and $\theta \in [0, 0.06]$ (b). Labels give the different types of contact.

Contact	θ	$n(\theta)$
$E_{12}V_3$	0.185269	29.49
$E_{23}V_1$	0.100419	83.67
$E_{13}V_2$	0.235825	47.04

Table 2 Value of θ for each possible optimal contact and corresponding f-number $n(\theta)$ for Example 2.

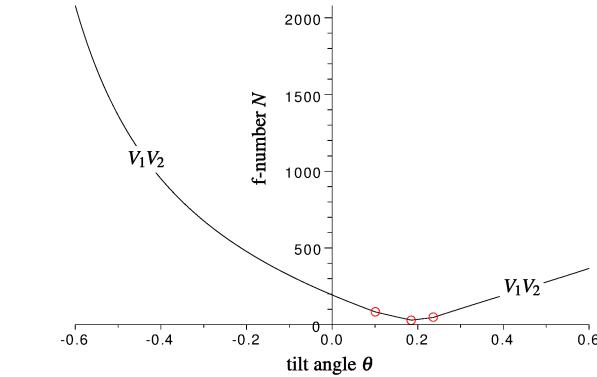
red dots. The graph confirms that the minimal value of $n(\theta)$ is reached for contact $E_{12}V_3$.

The minimal f-number is equal to $n(\theta^*) = 7.16$. By comparison, the f-number without tilt optimization is $n(0) = 28.74$. This example highlights the important gain in terms of f-number reduction with the optimized tilt angle.

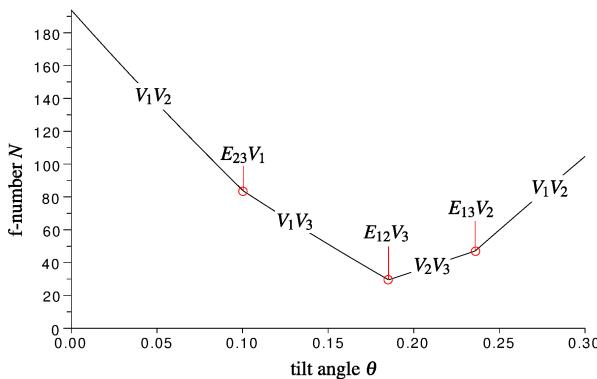
Example 2 We consider the same lens and confusion circle as in Example 1 ($f = 5.10^{-2}\text{m}$, $c = 3.10^{-5}\text{m}$) but the vertices have coordinates

$$\mathbf{X}^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -0.1 \\ 0.12 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.19 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -0.0525 \\ 0.17 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The object is almost ten times smaller than the object of the previous example (it has the size of a small pen), but it is



(a)



(b)

Fig. 11 Example 2 graph of $n(\theta)$ for $\theta \in [-0.6, 0.6]$ (a) and $\theta \in [0, 0.3]$ (b). Labels give the different types of contact.

also ten times closer: this is a typical close up configuration. The values of θ and $n(\theta)$ associated to contacts of type $E_{ij}V_k$ are given in Table 2 which shows that contact $E_{13}V_2$ seems to give the minimum f-number. We have

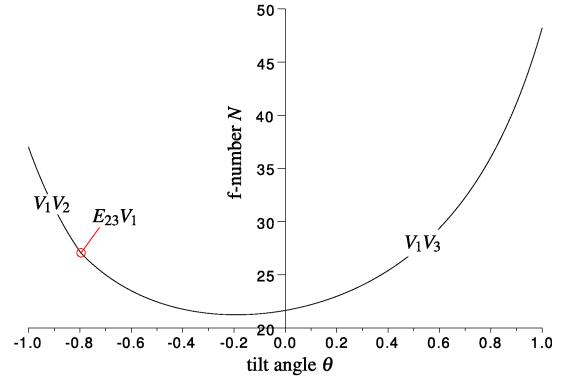
$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}^1 \times \mathbf{X}^2\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^1 - \mathbf{X}^2\|} = 0.16, \frac{\|\mathbf{X}^1 \times \mathbf{X}^3\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^1 - \mathbf{X}^3\|} = 0.16,$$

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}^2 \times \mathbf{X}^3\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^2 - \mathbf{X}^3\|} = 0.1775527,$$

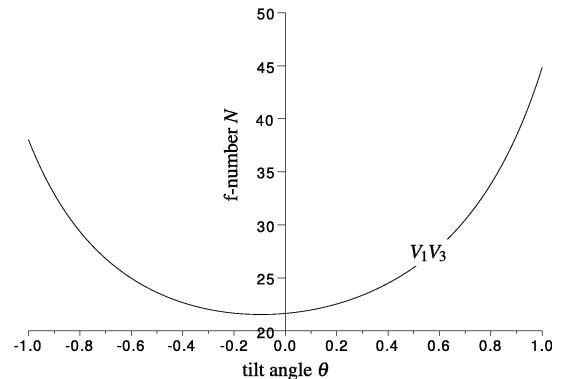
showing that condition (15) is still verified, even if the values are smaller than the values of Example 1. Hence, the derivative of $n(\theta)$ cannot vanish and the minimum f-number is reached for $\theta^* = 0.185269$.

We can confirm this by considering the graph of $n(\theta)$ depicted on Figure 11. As in Example 1, the derivative of $n(\theta)$ does not vanish and the graph confirms that the minimal value of $n(\theta)$ is reached for contact $E_{12}V_3$.

The minimal f-number is equal to $n(\theta^*) = 29.49$. By comparison, the f-number without tilt optimization is $n(0) = 193.79$. Such a large value gives an aperture of diameter 0.26mm, almost equivalent to a pin hole ! Since the maximum f-number of view camera lenses is never larger than 64, the object cannot be in focus without using tilt.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 12 Example 3 graphs of $n(\theta)$ for $\theta \in [-1, 1]$.

This example also shows that Proposition 2 is still valid even if the object is close to the lens and the obtained optimal tilt angle 0.185269 (10.61 degrees) is large.

Example 3 In this example we consider an extremely flat triangle which is almost aligned with the optical center. From the photographer's point of view, this is an unrealistic case. We consider the same optical parameters as before and consider the following vertices

$$\mathbf{X}^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{X}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ h \\ 1.5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{X}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -h \\ 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

for $h = 0.01$ and we have

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}^1 \times \mathbf{X}^2\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^1 - \mathbf{X}^2\|} = 0.02, \frac{\|\mathbf{X}^1 \times \mathbf{X}^3\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^1 - \mathbf{X}^3\|} = 0.01,$$

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}^2 \times \mathbf{X}^3\|}{\|\mathbf{X}^2 - \mathbf{X}^3\|} = 0.07,$$

hence condition (15) is violated in configurations V_1V_2 and V_1V_3 . Since this condition is sufficient, the minimum value of $n(\theta)$ could still occur for a contact of type $E_{ij}V_k$. However, we can see in Figure 12a that $n(\theta)$ has a minimum at a differentiable point in configuration V_1V_3 .

Remark 7 Condition (15) is not necessary: in the proof of Proposition 2 (given in Appendix A.3), it can be seen that (15) is a condition ensuring that the polynomial $p(\theta)$ defined by equation (25) has no root in $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. However, the relevant interval is smaller because X^{i_1} and X^{i_2} do not stay in contact with the limiting planes for all values of θ in $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, and because all vertices must be in front of the focal plane. Anyway, it is always possible to construct absolutely unrealistic configurations. For example, when we consider the above vertices with $h = 0.005$, then no edge is in contact with the limiting planes and vertices X^1 and X^3 stay in contact with the limiting planes for all admissible values of θ . The corresponding graph of $n(\theta)$ is given in Figure 12b.

3.4 Depth of field optimization with respect to tilt and swing angles

As in the previous section, we consider the case of a thin lens and where the optical and sensor centers coincide respectively with the front and rear standard rotation centers. Without loss of generality, we consider that the sensor plane has the normal $\mathbf{n}^S = (0, 0, 1)^\top$. The lens plane is given by

$$LP = \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{n}^L = 0 \right\},$$

where

$$\mathbf{n}^L = (-\sin \phi \cos \theta, -\sin \theta, \cos \phi \cos \theta)^\top.$$

A parametric equation of HL is given by

$$HL = \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \exists t \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W}(\theta, \phi) + t\mathbf{V}(\theta, \phi) \right\},$$

where the direction vector is given by

$$\mathbf{V}(\theta, \phi) = \mathbf{n}^L \times \mathbf{n}^S = (-\sin \theta, \sin \phi \cos \theta, 0)^\top,$$

and $\mathbf{W}(\theta, \phi)$ is the coordinate vector of a particular point $W(\theta, \phi)$ on HL, obtained as the minimum norm solution of

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{W}(\theta)^\top \mathbf{n}^S &= 0, \\ \mathbf{W}(\theta)^\top \mathbf{n}^L &= f. \end{aligned}$$

Consider, as depicted in Figure 7, the two planes of sharp focus SFP_1 and SFP_2 intersecting at HL, with normals \mathbf{n}^1 and \mathbf{n}^2 respectively. The point $W(\theta, \phi)$ belongs to SFP_1 and SFP_2 and any direction vector of $SFP_1 \cap SFP_2$ is collinear to $\mathbf{V}(\theta, \phi)$. Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} SFP_1 &= \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{W}(\theta, \phi))^\top \mathbf{n}^1 = 0 \right\}, \\ SFP_2 &= \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{W}(\theta, \phi))^\top \mathbf{n}^2 = 0 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(\mathbf{n}^1 \times \mathbf{n}^2) \times \mathbf{V}(\theta, \phi) = 0. \quad (18)$$

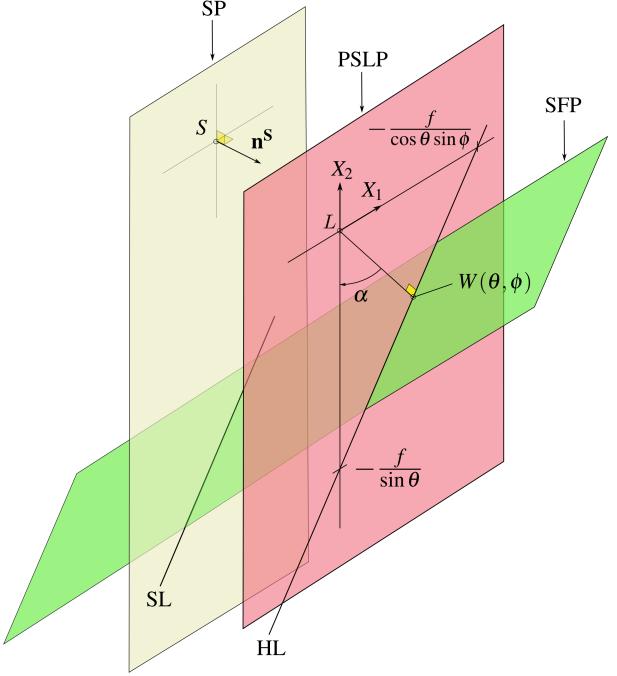


Fig. 13 Position of the hinge line when both tilt and swing are used and $\mathbf{n}^S = (0, 0, 1)^\top$. The LP and FFP planes have not been represented for reasons of readability.

Using equation (7) the f-number is equal to

$$N(\theta, \phi, \mathbf{n}^1, \mathbf{n}^2) = \frac{f}{c} \left| \frac{(\mathbf{U}^1 - \mathbf{U}^2)^\top \mathbf{n}^S}{(\mathbf{U}^1 + \mathbf{U}^2)^\top \mathbf{n}^S} \right|, \quad (19)$$

where each coordinate vector \mathbf{U}^i of point U^i , for $i = 1, 2$, is obtained as a particular solution of the following system:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}^i \top \mathbf{n}^L &= 0, \\ \mathbf{U}^i \top \mathbf{n}^i &= \mathbf{W}(\theta, \phi)^\top \mathbf{n}^i. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 8 When $\mathbf{n}^S = (0, 0, 1)^\top$ the intersections of HL with the (L, X_1) and the (L, X_2) axes can be determined, as depicted in Figure 13. In this case, it is easy to show that the coordinates of the minimum norm $\mathbf{W}(\theta, \phi)$ are given by

$$\mathbf{W}(\theta, \phi) = -\frac{f}{\sin^2 \phi \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} (\sin \phi \cos \theta, \sin \theta, 0)^\top.$$

We note that up to a rotation of axis $(0, 0, 1)^\top$ and angle α , we recover a configuration where only a tilt angle ψ is used, where these two angles are respectively defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \psi &= \text{sign } \theta \sqrt{\sin^2 \phi \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}, \\ \sin \alpha &= \frac{\sin \phi \cos \theta}{\sin \psi}. \end{aligned}$$

3.4.1 Optimization problem

Consider a set 4 non coplanar points $\mathcal{X} = \{X^i\}_{i=1\dots 4}$, which have to be within the depth of field region with minimal f-number and denote by $\{\mathbf{X}^i\}_{i=1\dots 4}$ their respective coordinate vectors. The optimization problem can be stated as follows: find

$$(\theta^*, \phi^*, \mathbf{n}^1^*, \mathbf{n}^2^*) = \arg \min_{\theta, \phi, \mathbf{n}^1, \mathbf{n}^2} N(\theta, \phi, \mathbf{n}^1, \mathbf{n}^2), \quad (20)$$

where the minimum is taken for $\theta, \phi, \mathbf{n}^1$ and \mathbf{n}^2 such that equation (18) is verified and such that the points $\{X^i\}_{i=1\dots 4}$ lie between SFP_1 and SFP_2 . This last set of constraints can be expressed in a way similar to equations (12)-(13).

3.4.2 Analysis of configurations

Consider the function $n(\theta, \phi)$ defined by

$$n(\theta, \phi) = \min_{\mathbf{n}^1, \mathbf{n}^2} N(\theta, \phi, \mathbf{n}^1, \mathbf{n}^2), \quad (21)$$

where \mathbf{n}^1 and \mathbf{n}^2 are constrained as in the previous section. Consider the two limiting planes SFP_1 and SFP_2 with normals \mathbf{n}^1 and \mathbf{n}^2 satisfying the minimum in equation (21). Using the rotation argument of Remark 8 we can easily show that SFP_1 and SFP_2 are necessary in contact with at least two vertices. However, for each value of the pair (θ, ϕ) , we have three types of possible contact between the tetrahedron formed by points $\{X^i\}_{i=1\dots 4}$ and the limiting planes: vertex-vertex, edge-vertex, edge-edge or face-vertex. These configurations can be analyzed as follows: let us consider a pair (θ_0, ϕ_0) and the corresponding type of contact:

- **Vertex-vertex:** each limiting plane is in contact with only one vertex, respectively V_i and V_j . In this case, $n(\theta, \phi)$ is differentiable at (θ_0, ϕ_0) and there exists a curve γ_{vv} defined by

$$\gamma_{vv}(t) = (\theta(t), \phi(t)), \quad \gamma_{vv}(0) = (\theta_0, \phi_0),$$

such that $\frac{d}{dt}n(\theta(t), \phi(t))$ exists and does not vanish for $t = 0$. This can be proved using again the rotation argument of Remark 8. Hence, $n(\theta_0, \phi_0)$ cannot be minimal.

- **Edge-vertex:** one of the two planes is in contact with edge E_{ij} and the other one is in contact with vertex V_k . In this case there is still a degree of freedom since the plane in contact with E_{ij} can rotate around this edge in either directions while keeping the other plane in contact with V_k only. If the plane in contact with E_{ij} is SFP_1 , its normal \mathbf{n}^1 can be parameterized by using a single scalar parameter t and we obtain a family of planes defined by

$$SFP_1(t) = \left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \mathbf{n}^1(t)^\top (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}^i) = 0 \right\}.$$

Contact	θ	ϕ	$n(\theta, \phi)$
$E_{12}E_{34}$	0.021430	-0.028582	12.35
$E_{23}E_{14}$	0.150568	-0.203694	90.75
$E_{13}E_{24}$	0.030005	-0.020010	8.64
$F_{123}V_4$	0	0.100167	88.18
$F_{243}V_1$	0.075070	-0.050162	42.91
$F_{134}V_2$	0.033340	-0.033358	9.64
$F_{124}V_3$	0.018751	-0.012503	10.76

Table 3 Value of θ and ϕ for each possible optimal contact and corresponding f-number $n(\theta, \phi)$.

For each value of t , the intersection of $SFP_1(t)$ with $PSLP$ defines a Hinge Line and thus a pair $(\theta(t), \phi(t))$ of tilt and swing angles. Hence, there exists a parametric curve

$$\gamma_{ev}(t) = (\theta(t), \phi(t)), \quad \gamma_{ev}(0) = (\theta_0, \phi_0), \quad (22)$$

along which $n(\theta, \phi)$ is differentiable. As we will see in the numerical results, the curve $\gamma_{ev}(t)$ is almost a straight line when θ and ϕ are small, and $\frac{d}{dt}n(\theta, \phi(t))$ does not vanish for $t = 0$.

- **Edge-edge:** the limiting planes are respectively in contact with edges E_{ij}, E_{kl} connecting, respectively, vertices V_i, V_j and vertices V_k, V_l . There is no degree of freedom left since these edges cannot be parallel (otherwise all points would be coplanar). Hence, $n(\theta, \phi)$ is not differentiable at (θ_0, ϕ_0) .
- **Face-vertex:** the limiting planes are respectively in contact with vertex V_l and with the face F_{ijk} connecting vertices V_i, V_j, V_k . As in the previous case, there is no degree of freedom left and $n(\theta, \phi)$ is not differentiable at (θ_0, ϕ_0) .

We can already speculate that the first two configurations are necessary suboptimal. Consequently we just have to compute the f-number associated with each one of the 7 possible configurations of type edge-edge or face-vertex.

3.4.3 Numerical results

We have considered the flat object of Example 1, translated in plane $X_1 = -0.5$, and a complimentary point in order to form a tetrahedron. The vertices have coordinates

$$\mathbf{X}^1 = \begin{pmatrix} -0.5 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} -0.5 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{X}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} -0.5 \\ 0 \\ 1.5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1.5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

All configurations of type edge-edge and face-vertex have been considered and the corresponding values of θ, ϕ and $n(\theta, \phi)$ are given in Table 3. The $E_{13}E_{24}$ contact seems to give the minimum f-number. Figure 14 gives the graph of

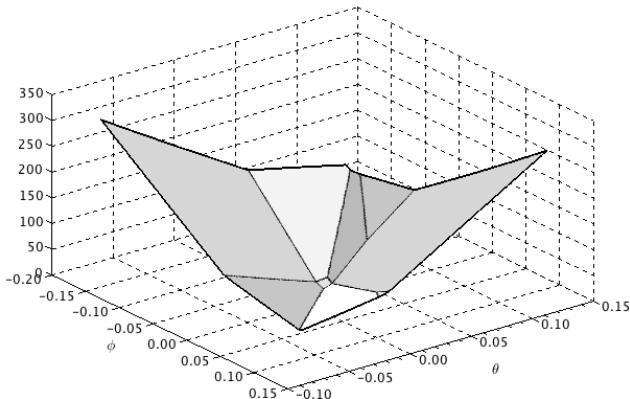


Fig. 14 Graph of $n(\theta, \phi)$ for $(\theta, \phi) \in [-0.175, 0.225] \times [-0.3225, 0.2775]$.

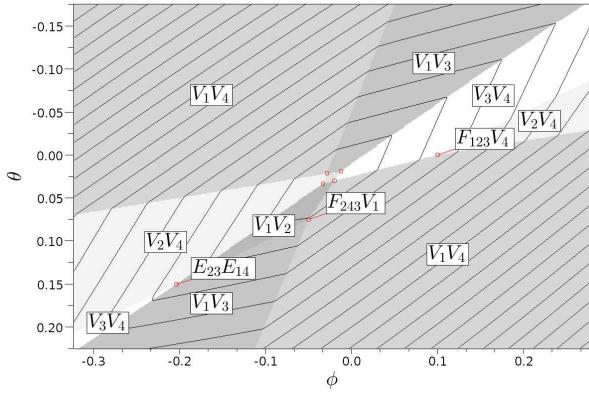


Fig. 15 Level curves of $n(\theta, \phi)$ and types of contact for $(\theta, \phi) \in [-0.175, 0.225] \times [-0.3225, 0.2775]$.

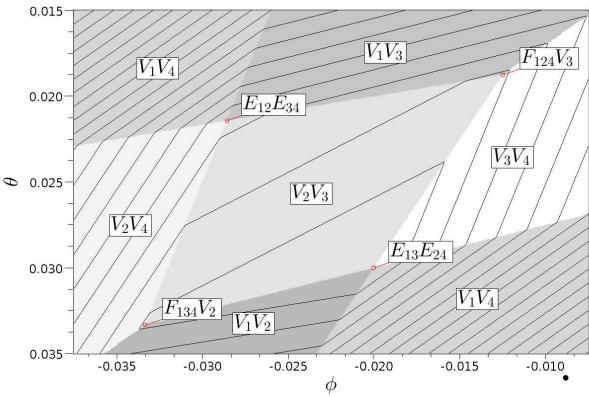


Fig. 16 Level curves and types of of $n(\theta, \phi)$ contact for $(\theta, \phi) \in [-0.015, 0.035] \times [-0.0375, -0.0075]$.

$n(\theta, \phi)$ and its level curves in the vicinity of the minimum are depicted in Figures 15 and 16. In the interior of each different shaded region, the (θ, ϕ) pair is such that the contact of \mathcal{X} with the limiting planes is of type V_iV_j . The possible optimal (θ, ϕ) pairs, corresponding to contacts of type $E_{ij}E_{kl}$ of $F_{ijk}V_l$, are marked with red dots. Notice that the graph of $n(\theta, \phi)$ is almost polyhedral, i.e. in the interior of regions of type V_iV_j , the gradient is almost constant and does not vanish, as seen on the level curves. This confirms that the minimum cannot occur in these regions, as announced in Section 3.4.2.

The frontiers between regions of type V_iV_j are curves corresponding to contacts of type $E_{ij}V_k$ and defined by Equation (22). The extremities of these curves are (θ, ϕ) pairs corresponding to contacts of type $E_{ij}E_{kl}$ or $F_{ijk}V_l$. For example, in Figure 16, the (θ, ϕ) pairs on the curve separating V_2V_3 and V_3V_4 regions correspond to the $E_{24}V_3$ contact. The extremities of this curve are the two (θ, ϕ) pairs corresponding to contacts $F_{124}V_3$ and $E_{13}E_{24}$. Along this curve, $n(\theta, \phi)$ is strictly monotone as shown by its level curves.

Finally, the convergence of its level curves in Figure 16 confirms that the minimum of $n(\theta, \phi)$ is reached for the $E_{13}E_{24}$ contact. Hence, the optimal angles are $(\theta^*, \phi^*) = (0.030005, -0.020010)$ and the minimal f-number is equal to $n(\theta^*, \phi^*) = 8.64$. By comparison, the f-number without tilt and swing optimization is $n(0, 0) = 28.74$. This example highlights again the important gain in terms of f-number reduction with the optimized tilt and swing angles. In our experience, the optimal configuration for general polyhedrons can be of type edge-edge or face-vertex.

4 Trends and conclusion

In this paper, we have given the optimal solution of the most challenging issue in view camera photography: bring an object of arbitrary shape into focus and at the same time minimize the f-number. This problem takes the form of a continuous optimization problem where the objective function (the f-number) and the constraints are non-linear with respect to the design variables. When the object is a convex polyhedron, we have shown that this optimization problem does not need to be solved by classical methods. Under realistic hypotheses, the optimal solution always occurs when the maximum number of constraints are saturated. Such a situation corresponds to a small number of configurations (seven when the object is a tetrahedron). Hence, the exact solution is found by comparing the value of the f-number for each configuration.

The linear algebra framework allowed us to efficiently implement the algorithms in a numerical computer algebra software. The camera software is able to interact with a robotised view camera prototype, which is actually used by our partner photographer. With the robotised camera, the time

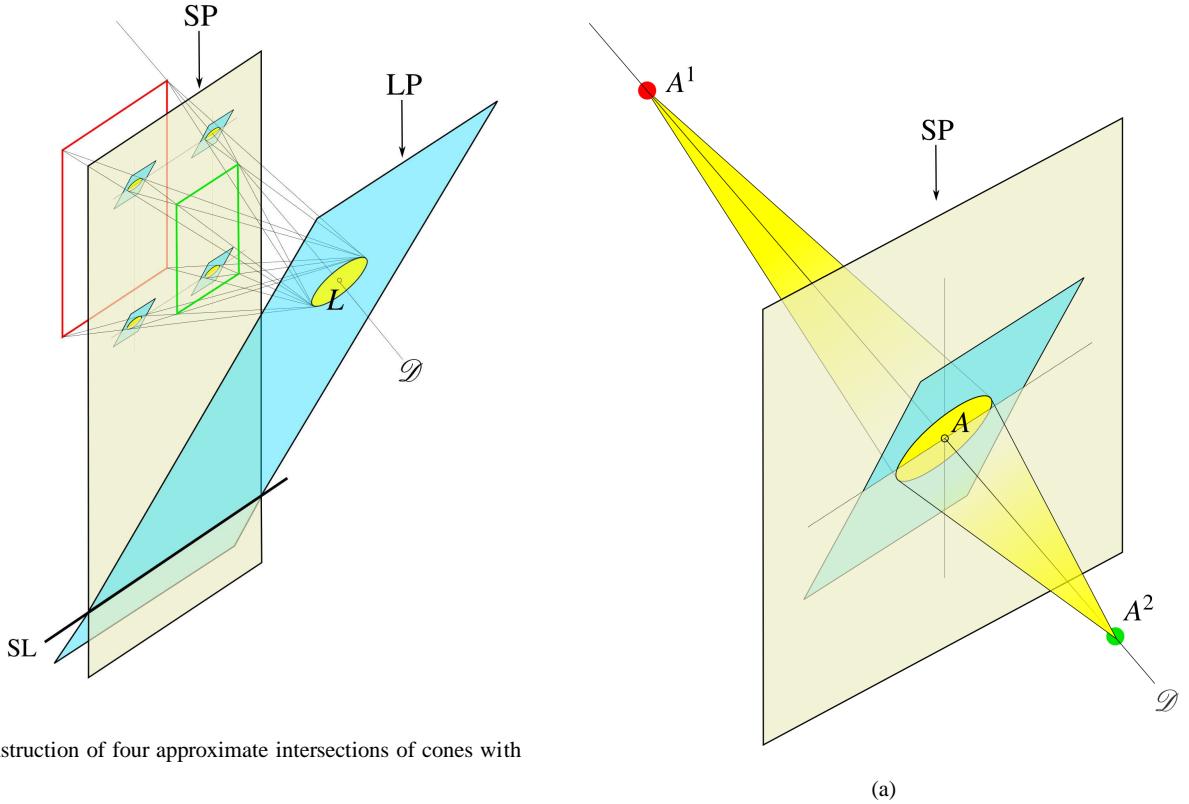


Fig. 17 Construction of four approximate intersections of cones with SP

elapsed in the focusing process is often orders of magnitude smaller than the systematic trial and error technique.

The client/server architecture of the software allows us to rapidly develop new problem solvers by validating them first on a virtual camera before implementing them on the prototype. We are currently working on the fine calibration of some extrinsic parameters of the camera, in order to improve the precision of the acquisition of 3D points of the object.

Acknowledgements This work has been partly funded by the Innovation and Technological Transfer Center of Région Ile de France.

A Appendix

A.1 Computation of the depth of field region

In order to explain the kind of approximation used, we have represented in Figure 17 the geometric construction of the image space limits corresponding to the depth of field region. Let us consider the cones whose base is the pupil and having an intersection with SP of diameter c . The image space limits are the locus of the vertex of such cones. The key point, suggested in [1] and [2], is the way the diameter of the intersection is measured.

For a given line D passing through L and a circle C of center L in LP let us call $\mathcal{K}(C, D)$ the set of cones with directrix D and base C . For a given directrix D let us call A its intersection with SP , as depicted in Figure 18a. Instead of considering the intersection of cones of directrix D with SP , we consider their intersections with the plane passing through A and parallel to LP. By construction, all intersections are cir-

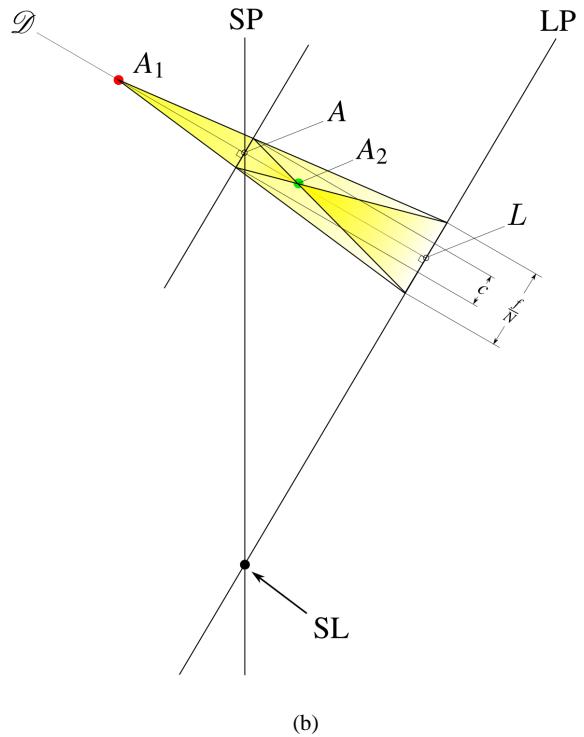


Fig. 18 (a) close-up of a particular intersection exhibiting the vertices of cones for a given directrix D . (b) geometrical construction allowing to derive the depth of field formula.

cles, and there exists only two cones K_1 and K_2 in $\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ such that this intersection has a diameter equal to c , with their respective vertices A_1, A_2 on each side of SP, respectively marked in Figure 18a by a red and a green spot. Moreover, for all cones in $\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ only those with a vertex lying on the segment $[A_1, A_2]$ have an "approximate" intersection of diameter less than c .

The classical laws of homothety show that for any directrix \mathcal{D} , the locus of the vertices of cones K_1 and K_2 will be on two parallel planes located in front of and behind SP, as illustrated by a red and a green frame in Figure 17a. Hence, the depth of field region in the object space is the reciprocal image of the region between parallel planes SP_1 and SP_2 as depicted in Figure 7.

Formulas (5) and (6) are obtained by considering the directrix that is orthogonal to LP, as depicted in Figure 18b. If we note $p = AL$, $p_1 = A_1L$, $p_2 = A_2L$, by considering similar triangles, we have

$$\frac{p_1 - p}{p_1} = \frac{p - p_2}{p_2} = \frac{Nc}{f}, \quad (23)$$

which gives immediately

$$p = \frac{2p_1 p_2}{p_1 + p_2},$$

and by substituting p in (23), we obtain

$$\frac{p_1 - p_2}{p_1 + p_2} = \frac{Nc}{f},$$

which allows to obtain (5).

A.2 Proof of Proposition 1

Without loss of generality, we consider that the optimal θ is positive. Suppose now that only one constraint is active in (12). Then there exists i_1 such that $(\mathbf{X}^{i_1} - \mathbf{W})^\top \mathbf{n}^1 = 0$ and the first order optimality condition is verified: if we define

$$g(\mathbf{a}, \theta) = -(\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{W}(\theta))^\top \mathbf{n}^1 = X_2^{i_1} - a_1 X_3^{i_1} + \frac{f}{\sin \theta},$$

there exists $\lambda_1 \geq 0$ such that the Kuhn and Tucker condition

$$\nabla N(\mathbf{a}, \theta) + \lambda_1 \nabla g(\mathbf{a}, \theta) = 0,$$

is verified. Hence, we have

$$\frac{2}{(2 \cot \theta - (a_1 + a_2))^2} \begin{pmatrix} \cot \theta - a_2 \\ -\cot \theta + a_1 \\ \frac{a_1 - a_2}{\sin^2 \theta} \end{pmatrix} + \lambda_1 \begin{pmatrix} -X_3^{i_1} \\ 0 \\ -\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} \end{pmatrix},$$

and necessarily, $a_1 = \cot \theta$ so that $N(\mathbf{a}, \theta)$ reaches its upper bound and thus is not minimal. We obtain the same contradiction when only a constraint in (13) is active, or only two constraints in (12), or only two constraints in (13). \square

A.3 Proof of Proposition 2

Without loss of generality we suppose that $\theta \geq 0$. Suppose that the minimum of $N(\mathbf{a}, \theta)$ is reached with only vertices i_1 and i_2 respectively in contact with limiting planes SFP_1 and SFP_2 . The values of a_1 and a_2 can be determined as the following functions of θ

$$a_1(\theta) = \frac{X_2^{i_1} + \frac{f}{\sin \theta}}{X_3^{i_1}}, \quad a_2(\theta) = \frac{X_2^{i_2} + \frac{f}{\sin \theta}}{X_3^{i_2}},$$

and straightforward computations give

$$N(\mathbf{a}(\theta), \theta) = \frac{\left(\frac{X_2^{i_1}}{X_3^{i_1}} - \frac{X_2^{i_2}}{X_3^{i_2}} \right) \sin \theta + \left(\frac{f}{X_3^{i_1}} - \frac{f}{X_3^{i_2}} \right)}{2 \cos \theta - \left(\frac{X_2^{i_1}}{X_3^{i_1}} + \frac{X_2^{i_2}}{X_3^{i_2}} \right) \sin \theta - \left(\frac{f}{X_3^{i_1}} + \frac{f}{X_3^{i_2}} \right)} \left(\frac{f}{c} \right). \quad (24)$$

In order to prove the result, we just have to check that the derivative of $N(\mathbf{a}(\theta), \theta)$ with respect to θ cannot vanish for $\theta \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$. The total derivative of $N(\mathbf{a}(\theta), \theta)$ with respect to θ is given by

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} N(\mathbf{a}(\theta), \theta) = 2 \frac{\left(\frac{X_2^{i_1}}{X_3^{i_1}} - \frac{X_2^{i_2}}{X_3^{i_2}} \right) - f \left(\frac{X_2^{i_1} - X_2^{i_2}}{X_3^{i_1} X_3^{i_2}} \right) \cos \theta + \left(\frac{f}{X_3^{i_1}} - \frac{f}{X_3^{i_2}} \right) \sin \theta}{\left(2 \cos \theta - \left(\frac{X_2^{i_1}}{X_3^{i_1}} + \frac{X_2^{i_2}}{X_3^{i_2}} \right) \sin \theta - \left(\frac{f}{X_3^{i_1}} + \frac{f}{X_3^{i_2}} \right) \right)^2} \left(\frac{f}{c} \right)$$

and its numerator is proportional to the trigonometrical polynomial

$$p(\theta) = b_0 + b_1 \cos \theta + b_2 \sin \theta, \quad (25)$$

where $b_0 = X_2^{i_1} X_3^{i_2} - X_2^{i_2} X_3^{i_1}$, $b_1 = -f (X_2^{i_2} - X_2^{i_1})$, $b_2 = f (X_3^{i_2} - X_3^{i_1})$.

It can be easily shown by using the Schwartz inequality that $p(\theta)$ does not vanish provided that

$$b_0^2 > b_1^2 + b_2^2. \quad (26)$$

Since $X_1^{i_2} = X_1^{i_1} = 0$, we have $b_0^2 = \|X_1^{i_1} \times X_1^{i_1}\|^2$ and $b_1^2 + b_2^2 = f^2 \|X_1^{i_1} - X_1^{i_1}\|^2$. Hence (26) is equivalent to condition (15), this ends the proof. \square

A.4 Depth of field region approximation used by A. Merklinger

In his book ([4], Chapter 7) A. Merklinger has proposed the following approximation based on the assumption of distant objects and small tilt angles: if h is the distance from SFP_1 to SFP_2 , measured in a direction parallel to the sensor plane at distance z from the lens plane, as depicted in Figure 19, we have

$$\frac{h}{2z} \approx \frac{f}{H \sin \theta}, \quad (27)$$

where H is the *hyperfocal distance* (for a definition see [5] p. 221), related to the f-number N by the formula

$$H = \frac{f^2}{Nc},$$

and c is the diameter of the circle of confusion. Using (27), the f-number N can be approximated by

$$\tilde{N} = \sin \theta \frac{h}{2z} \frac{f}{c}.$$

Since the slopes of SFP_1 and SFP_2 are respectively given by a_1 and a_2 , we have

$$\frac{h}{z} = a_1 - a_2,$$

and we obtain immediately

$$\tilde{N} = (a_1 - a_2) \sin \theta \left(\frac{f}{2c} \right),$$

which is the same as (16).

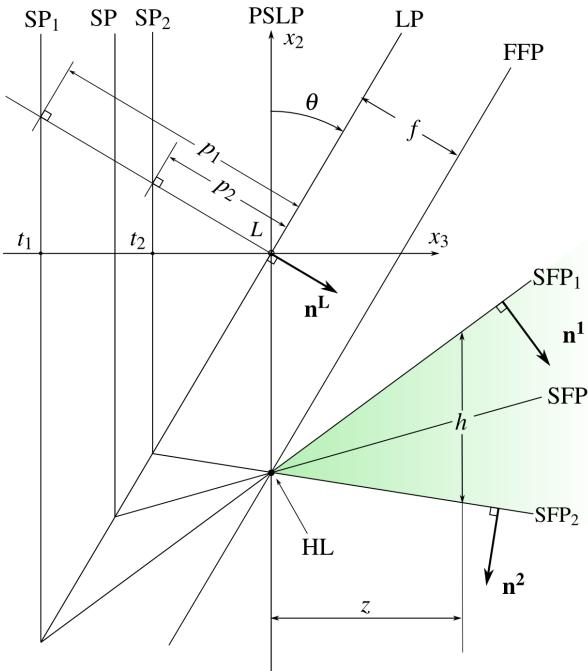


Fig. 19 Depth of field region approximation using the hyperfocal.

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